



USW Local 8751 - District 4
Boston School Bus Drivers' Union
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January 17, 2013

Michael Cordiello
President/Business Agent
Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1181
101-49 Woodhaven Boulevard
Ozone Park, NY 11416

**RE: USW Local 8751 Stands In 100% Solidarity with our
Striking Sisters and Brothers of ATU Local 1181-11061!
Justice for Union Drivers = Safe, Professional, On-time Transportation
for New York City's Students!
Mayor Bloomberg: Stop Union Busting, Now!
Restore the Job and Contract Security, Now!**

Dear Brother Cordiello,

The 800 strong members of USW Local 8751 – who are employed by the multi-billion dollar British transnational First Student, Inc. and who transport more than 35,000 students daily for the Boston Public Schools – met tonight at our membership meeting, and voted unanimously and resoundingly to stand in 100% solidarity with our courageous sisters and brothers of ATU Local 1181 who are waging a historic strike on behalf of all working people and the safety of their most precious cargo.

We know that the 8,800 New York City school bus drivers and matrons have served the city, many for decades, providing regular and special education students with exemplary, safe, on-time transportation. We know you have advocated for the rights of the children in your daily work, as you have so splendidly done with the Parents to Improve Student Transportation.

How dare the billionaires's mayor choose to eliminate your decades-long job and contract security – which is the foundation for professional, consistent and safe student transportation – and offer the CEO's of private, profitable bus company's carte blanche to bid away and bust out your union! The government's arrogance in this case is a blatant signal to corporations in New York City and nationwide to push forward with their relentless campaign to impose drastic austerity measures on all of us, to turn back decades of hard fought union gains, and to increase their own profits at the expense of the health and well being of the drivers, matrons, mechanics and the children and parents we serve.

We join with tens of millions of hard-working people across the nation and the world who will do everything in our power to see that your struggle is victorious. We will not allow mayor Bloomberg and

Unity! Unidada!



Inité! Unidade!

his Wall Street backers to sacrifice the safe transportation of our children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews on the altar of their financiers' greed!

In 1991, our members, too, had to build the fire barrels and set up picket lines, striking for five and ½ weeks to force Boston's mayor, School Department and their corporate sponsor's to sign agreements – now part of all future management company bid specifications – that whatever company or city agency becomes our employer, they need to take our members, our seniority, and all terms and conditions of our collective bargaining agreement. (see enclosed contract, p. 141-145) Prior to this agreement, the companies and the city disregarded and disrespected the bus drivers, giving more attention to the tires, equipment, and shareholders demands than the human beings driving and riding the buses. The experience of 26 years has clearly demonstrated that this has brought dignity and justice to the drivers, as well as continuity and security guarantees for the safe and professional transportation of the students.

Today we are sending our statement and resolution to the Greater Boston Labor Council, the Massachusetts AFL-CIO, and the Worcester Central Labor Council to send to their affiliates and build support state wide. Please accept our modest contribution of \$500 to your Strike Defense Fund. Though distance makes it impossible for us to be on your picketlines this morning, know that we stand with you, walking the walk for "Justice for Drivers & Safety for Children."

Passed unanimously at the USW Local 8751 membership meeting, January 17, 2013

In Solidarity,



Steve Gillis

Vice President, USW Local 8751